

THE WASHINGTON POST
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Sen. Welker Accused Of Smearing Czech

A top CIO official yesterday charged that a Senate subcommittee has permitted itself to be made a tool in a political fight among Czech emigres, with consequences that make fine grist for the Communist propaganda mills.

James B. Carey, CIO secretary-treasurer, in a letter to Vice President Richard M. Nixon, made the charge against Sen. Herman Welker (R-Idaho) as a one-man subcommittee acting for the Jenner Subcommittee on Internal Security.

Carey said that Welker, at a closed hearing held on February 2 accused Hubert Ripka, Czech Foreign Trade Minister prior to the Red coup, of being a Communist as head of the Council of Free Czechoslovakia.

The council, Carey asserted, is recognized by the State Department as anti-Communist.

Welker, he said, permitted Czech political enemies, of Ripka to attend the otherwise closed hearing, and these foes even assisted Welker in interrogating Ripka.

Carey told the Vice President that even though the hearing on February 2 was in secret, the "full story" was printed in

a Czech-language daily printed in this country. The CIO official said another member of the council had already been subpoenaed by the subcommittee for a further hearing Tuesday.

"If the most respected and authoritative leaders of the democratic forces of Czechoslovakia are to be brought before a star-chamber hearing as virtually prejudged, common criminals and if their political enemies are able to use such a committee of the United States Senate to destroy their usefulness, we will have given the greatest possible assistance to the Communists," Carey declared.

It is almost certain that reports of the secret subcommittee hearing have been "gleefully" transmitted by the Reds to Czechoslovakia, Carey said, "to demonstrate what happens when people flee from Communist domination to the United States."

Carey said no one could have read Ripka's "Czechoslovakia Enslaved," published in 1950, without having a great deal of admiration and sympathy for those who fought the Communists for three years.

THE WASHINGTON STAR
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CIO Leader Blasts Welker on Attitude Toward Free Czechs

By the Associated Press

James B. Carey, secretary-treasurer of the CIO, said yesterday Senator Welker, Republican of Idaho, had virtually accused democratic Czechs, granted asylum here from their Communist-dominated country, of being Communists.

The effect, Mr. Carey told Vice President Nixon in a letter could be devastating upon our foreign policy—"especially upon our efforts to sustain the spirits and help to free people under Communist domination."

Senator Welker was not available for comment last night.

Mr. Carey said the Czechs involved are Hubert Ripka, minister of foreign trade in the last Czech regime before the Communists seized power, and Peter Zenkl, deputy prime minister in the Benes government preceding the Communist coup.

Cites U. S. Recognition.

Mr. Carey said "what might be called the Czechoslovak 'government in exile' is represented by the Council of Free Czechoslovakia.

"This is a group officially recognized by our government as representative of the anti-Communist Czechs who are struggling to liberate their country from Communist domination," Mr. Carey asserted.

The labor leader advised Mr. Nixon that Mr. Ripka appeared February 2 before the Senate Internal Security Subcommittee, which is headed by Senator Jenner, Republican, of Indiana, in response to a subpoena.

Threats Charged.

Although it was a closed session, Mr. Carey said he was told several Czech emigres assisted the committee in the interrogation of Mr. Ripka.

He added:

"Our information is that Senator Welker, who acted as a one-man subcommittee at this hearing, literally accused Mr. Ripka of being a Communist and threatened to denounce him and the Council of Free Czechoslovakia as being subversive."

Mr. Carey said that although Mr. Ripka was questioned in closed session and he was told nothing should be said about it, a Czech language daily had carried a full story on it.

Mr. Carey said Mr. Zenkl, chairman of the Council of Free Czechoslovakia has been subpoenaed to appear before the internal security subcommittee on February 16.

Describing Mr. Zenkl as "one of the most respected and honored Czech exiles," Mr. Carey said, "it is quite possible that Mr. Zenkl may get the same treatment as Mr. Ripka; that is, he may be pre-judged on the basis of so-called 'information' supplied by political enemies, and these political enemies will be able to proudly publish that in executive session Mr. Zenkl was virtually called a Communist by a committee of the United States Senate."